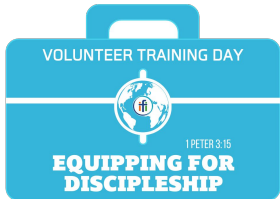


# **African Student Workshop:**

**(Overview)**

**Five Reasons to Host an African Students**  
**Stereotypes and Myths About African Students**  
**Africa and Religion**



# Contributors



**Tosan Otoks**

Tosan Otokuefor is the IFI event coordinator. She joined IFI in 2020 after leading the Homeless ministry in her church for over 17 years. She originates from Nigeria but has been blessed to live in over 10 countries. She speaks French, German, Irish, Slovak and her native dialects. She enjoys learning new languages and cultures.



**Ruth Oliwe**

Ruth Oliwe is a PhD student in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education, specializing in Mathematics Education. Hailing from Nigeria, she arrived in the United States in the Fall of 2022 and was graciously hosted by two incredible IFI volunteer families, Mark & Judith Irwin and Ruth Tolson. Ruth was born and raised in Lagos, Western Nigeria, with ancestral roots in the Igbo-speaking tribe in Eastern Nigeria.



**Oluwadamilola Salau**

Oluwadamilola Salau is a Ph.D. student in Geography who advocates for the inclusion of vulnerable communities in urban planning and disaster management. She is from the Yoruba tribe, which dominates Nigeria's western region. She is fluent in English, Pidgin, Yoruba, and her native Ijebu dialect.



**Oluwadamilola Elizabeth Adeniji**

Oluwadamilola Adeniji is an IFI volunteer. She hails from Oyo State, Nigeria. She has her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Industrial Chemistry. Oluwadamilola is passionate about young and teenage girls and seeks for them to have a balanced life. She's married to Ayomipo, a Ph.D student in the Environmental Health Science program.

# Five Reasons to Host an African Student

Ruth Oliwe

PhD STEM Education  
The Ohio State University





## 1. HOSPITALITY

It is the one of the Lord's commands

- *Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God (Romans 15:7)*
- *Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brethren you did it to me. - Matthew 25:40*

Having doubts? You are not alone in this journey of hospitality.

*"And teach them to faithfully follow all that I have commanded you. And never forget that I am with you every day, even to the completion of this age." Matthew 28:20 TPT*



## 2. THEY ARE A GIFT

*"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." - Hebrews 13:1-2*

*"It's like having another daughter in the house ... She's done as much for me as much I have done for her" - My Host Dad's Testimony*







### 3. TO BUILD FRIENDSHIP

From **ONE** to **MANY MORE**; building a larger community of friendship with love in Christ Jesus.



#### 4. GET TO KNOW THEIR CULTURES

- Get to know and understand the means of communication even before they arrive E.g. Whatsapp
- Do a bit of research - country, food, language, faith, similarities/differences between their country and the USA, etc.
- Be open, willing, and ask questions (not from a deficit perspective)

**What can you do to help African students get more comfortable?**

- (1) Help them understand they are not a burden to you
- (2) Be proactive

## 5. TO ADVANCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD



*"Dear friend, when you extend hospitality to Christian [African] brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible. They've made a full report back to the church here [their families, communities and church back in their home country], a message about your love. It's good work you're doing, helping these travelers on their way, hospitality worthy of God himself! They set out under the banner of the Name, and get no help from unbelievers. So they deserve any support we can give them. In providing meals and a bed, we become their companions in spreading the Truth." - 3 John 1:5-8 MSG*

Now, imagine you are privileged to host an African student who has a heart to serve the Lord, would your hospitality be a guide to answering questions that student may have about how and where to serve?

Think about how much impact there will be if most of the African students hosted by IFI volunteers partner in the mission and vision of IFI to spread God's love and hospitality and teach about the kingdom of God to other non-believing international students here in Columbus and beyond over the next 10 years?





**LET'S  
DISCUSS**

## 5 Minute Discuss

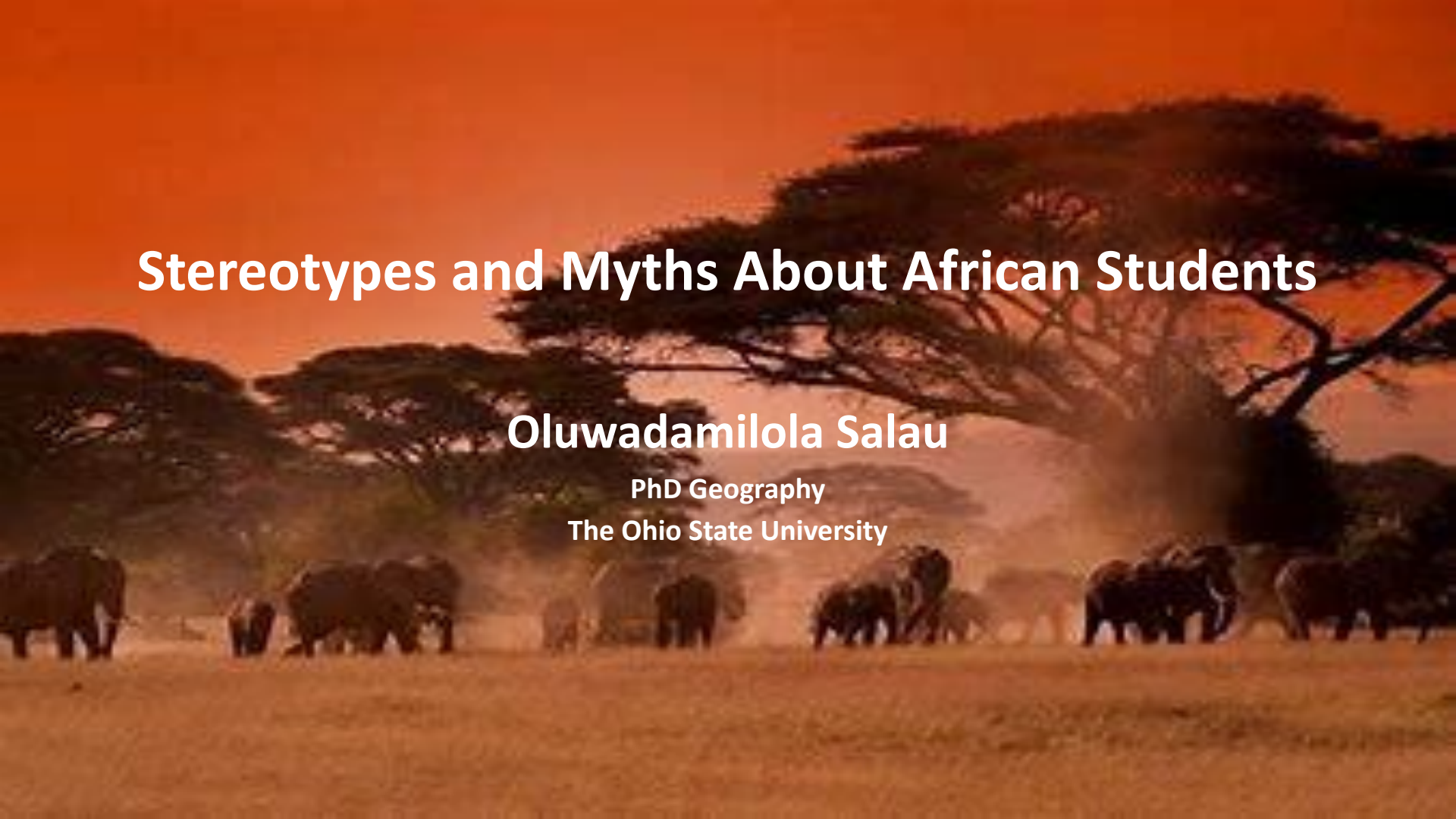
- ❖ Discuss other reasons you may have to host an African student?
- ❖ What tentative changes do you have to make in order to host African students comfortably in your home?
- ❖ In what ways do you plan sustaining and building more friendships with the African students after they leave your home?

# **Stereotypes and Myths About African Students**

**Oluwadamilola Salau**

**PhD Geography**

**The Ohio State University**



When you think of  
Africa, what comes to  
mind?



- Africa is a diverse and vast continent with a rich history, culture, and geography. Africa consists of 54 countries.
- Unfortunately, there are several myths and stereotypes about Africa that can fuel misconception of Africans.





## Myth 1 - Africans live in tree/mud huts.

- ❖ There is a widespread misconception that Africans live in tree and grass-thatched huts made of mud and dung.
- ❖ Mud huts can only be found in rural areas, not in cities, and it is unfair to ignore Africa's beautiful cities.
- ❖ Most African cities' skylines are dominated by beautifully designed skyscrapers that have become a source of national pride.



Nigeria



Morocco



## Myth 2 - Africans cannot speak English; instead, they speak African or the same language.

- ❖ There are over 2000 languages spoken on the continent of Africa, and 'African' is not one of them. This is equivalent to assuming that people living in Europe speak 'European'.
- ❖ English is also the official language in 24 African countries, and it is taught at a high level in schools throughout the continent.
- ❖ Most Africans are bi- or trilingual.



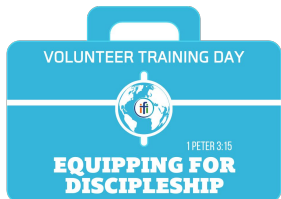
### Myth 3 - Africa is full of poverty, persecution, and war

- ❖ This is true in some countries in Africa, but don't make generalizations.
- ❖ Some African countries, such as Botswana and Cape Verde, are among the least corrupt worldwide.
- ❖ A huge amount of aid is indeed sent to different countries around the continent, but it is also important to note that not all countries depend on foreign aid to improve the lives of their citizens.

## Myth 4 - Africans lack access to technology.



- ❖ Technology in Africa is a rapidly growing market, with many global technology giants making significant investments in the continent.
- ❖ As of 2013, 80% of Africans had access to a mobile. Kenya is also known as the 'Silicon Savannah' of Africa.
- ❖ Africa is regarded as one of the most marketable economies for technology, with Nigeria having the most (85) tech hubs, followed by South Africa, which has 80.





## Do not Ask



- ❖ When you meet an African for the first time, do not ask questions such as
  - How did you come here?
  - Do you have cars in your country?
  - Do you have food in your country?
- ❖ While they may appear harmless, it is quite demeaning to think that a whole continent in this century does not have cars, phones, airplanes, etc.
- ❖ Instead, learn about the student's home country and inquire about their culture, games, language, and cuisine.



## Questions

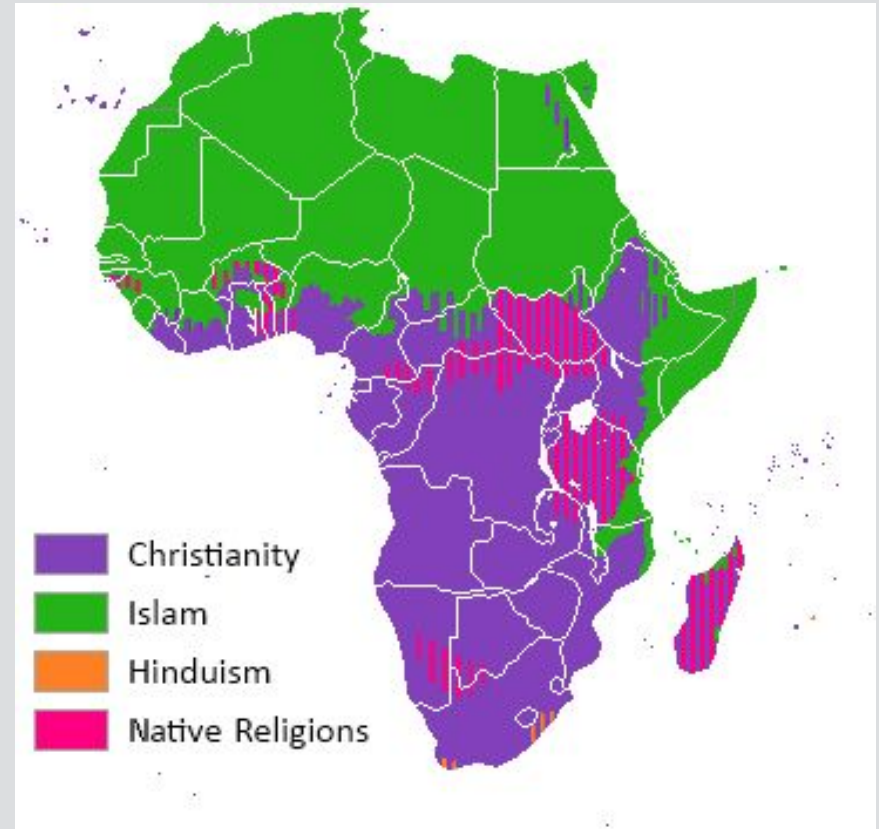
- ❖ What other myths have you heard about Africa?
- ❖ After hearing this brief lecture, which myths do you still have questions about?
- ❖ How would you help to reduce misinformation about Africans?

# Africa and Religion

By

**Oluwadamilola Elizabeth Adeniji**  
**B.Sc, M.Sc (Industrial Chemistry)**

# Religions





# Viewpoints on God

- ❖ **God:** Ruler and Deliverer (sovereign, transcendent)
- ❖ **God's Holiness:** He alone created and stands above everything



# Viewpoints on God

- ❖ **God's Sovereignty:** Defeats spiritual opposition and rules the world
- ❖ **God's Righteousness:** Cosmic power

**However, they seek Him in various ways.**



# Viewpoints on God

## ❖ **Salvation in Jesus**

- Jesus only: Risks excommunication from family and community
- Jesus and traditional beliefs: Hold onto traditional beliefs yet practice Christianity. Avoid ex-communication from family.



# Barriers to having a Spiritual Conversation

- ❖ Cultural and Language Barrier
- ❖ Family Roots and Beliefs Differences
- ❖ Emotional and Psychological strain





# How to have a spiritual conversation with an African Student

- ❖ **Ask** questions to know about his or her religion (believe about God) and family background
- ❖ **Listen** carefully on his or her beliefs
- ❖ If a believer, **how** do you come to know about Christ? (salvation experience/story)
- ❖ If not a believer , is there any **reason** for that?
- ❖ **Can I share my story with you?**



# SOME TIPS ON RELATING TO AFRICAN STUDENTS

- ❖ **Get to know a person as an individual**
- ❖ **Show interest in their families, both here and back home**



# SOME TIPS ON RELATING TO AFRICAN STUDENTS

- ❖ Show interest in their primary interest which is academics
- ❖ Feel free to talk about religion once you know their background



- ❖ Generally, Africans prefer home-cooked meals (hot in temperature and/or spicy)
- ❖ Examples include Moroccan beef stew, South african chakalaka, Senegalese Peanut Stew, Nigerian jollof, pepper soup etc







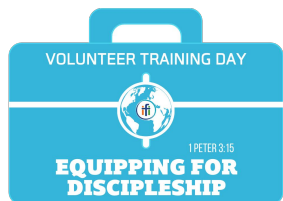
- ❖ How best can you start a religious conversation?
- ❖ Mention some icebreaker questions to ask?
- ❖ What are some practical ways you can show love and interest to an African student's academics and family
- ❖ How best do you think you can better share the gospel with an African student

## Conclusion:

You heard Ruth talked about hospitality and how she was hosted and made to feel at home with her host family.

As with most ethnic groups/cultures, there are myths and stereotypes. Dammy spoke on several of the popular myths and stereotypes about Africa and Africans. Africa is diverse and has a lot of depth. It varies from country to country, state to state within a particular country and so on. If you are hosting an African student, research their particular country, their culture and foods.

When you host or meet an African student, do not assume they speak the same language. Though we are all from Nigeria here today, we do not speak the same language or have the same culture in regards to the way we dress or food we eat. Most importantly, religion is very essential in the life of an African. Whatever religion an African person follows, know they have deep knowledge about that religion. An African Christian has probably read through the Bible several times. So rather than assume, ask questions to know exactly how to engage them.



**THANK YOU**

**Questions?**



# Workshop Evaluation



**Take a moment to share  
your thoughts!**